some railway stations in Gujarat state to be developed as model railway stations,

(b) if so, the names of the stations in the State;

(c) the amount sanctioned and developed work undertaken at these stations, and

(d) the number of passenger trains likely to be halted on these ideal stations, station-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) In 1986, three Railway Stations viz. Ahmedabad, Rajkot and Junagadh in the state of Gujarat were selected to be developed as 'Model Stations' and works in this regard were completed at a cost of Rs. 41.23 lakh Under this scheme, all the required amenities, commensurate with the volume of traffic handled, were provided

(d) All trains passing through these stations stop at these stations

Inviting bids for setting up of tourist circuits and hotel chain

6808. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 5786 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th May, 1994 and state

(a) whether bids from foreign chains and domestic concerns have been invited or are proposed to be invited to run these circuits and if so, what are the details in this regard,

(b) what are the names of places where these circuits are likely to be set up, at what cost and by when each of these circuits would be set up; and

(c) to what extent these measures would encourage foreign tourists to India?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) The following new tourist circuits have been indentified for introduction of tourist train services:—

1. Madras (Egmore)—Pondicherry-Karaikal/Velankini-Tiruchchirappalli-Madurai-Rameshwaram-Thanjavur-Chidambaram-Madras (Egmore).

2. Delhi Cantt.-Jaipur-Jodhpur-Jaisalmer-Sawai Madhopur-Bharatpur-Agra-Delhi Cantt.

3. Delhi Cantt.-Jaipur-Udaipur-Ahmedabad-Veraval-Palitana-Delhi Cantt.

4. Howrah-Gaya-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Bhubaneshwar-Puri-Howrah

5. Bombay-Aurangabad-Nanded-Secunderabad-Hyderabad-Pune-Bombay

6. Goa (Madgaon)-Mangalore-Mysore-Hospet-Bangalore-Goa(Madgaon).

7. Delhi-Jaipur-Agra-Gwalior-Jhansi-Varanasi-Lucknow-Delhi.

8. Bangalore-Mysore-Madras-Kodaikanal Road-Kanniya Kumari-Trivandrum-Cochin-Mettupalayam-Bangalore.

While the tourist trains listed at Serial Numbers 1 to 3 are being launched in collaboration with Tourism Development Corporations of Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Gujarat respectively, bids are being invited in respect of the remaining tourist circuits from public and private sectors in the fields of tourism, travel, hotels and related industries on 'Build and Operate' basis. The estimated time for construction and introduction of these services would be one year from the date of award of contract after finalisation of bids.

The measure has been planned to provide the infrastructural support for the implementation of the 'Action Plan' of the Ministry of Tourism to attract 5 million tourists by 1996-97.